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15. Amended A pharmaceutical dosage unit comprising a first pharmaceutical

composition comprising at least one of  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate and  $\alpha$ -ketoglutaric acid in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and being devoid of ammonium, and a second pharmaceutical composition comprising ammonium in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and being devoid of  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate and  $\alpha$ -ketoglutaric acid, the total amount of the at least one of  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate and  $\alpha$ -ketoglutaric acid and the ammonium being effective to preserve skeletal muscle, and wherein the amount administered of said at least one of  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate and  $\alpha$ -ketoglutaric acid is from  $0.02 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$  to  $30 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$  and the amount of infusion administered of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  is from  $0.5 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$  to  $20 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ .

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